

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PRS-01 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 MCE-00
AID-05 /071 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/RA:WGROSS
PM/SAS: FRANK CORRY
-----005684 122225Z /61
O 122206Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191729

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, MASS, LE, US

SUBJECT: DOD TEAM VISIT

1. ON AUGUST 12, WE HAD AN EXTREMELY USEFUL MEETING TO
EXAMINE STRATEGY FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH FY '77 DOLS 25
MILLION FMS CREDIT PROGRAM. MEETING ATTENDED BY REPS OF
NEA, PM, DIA, OMB, DSAA, ISA, U.S. ARMY, AND MAJOR
HOSKINSON, NOW CONFIRMED AS ARMY ATTACHE.
CONSENSUS EMERGED THAT SENDING A DOD TEAM IS
NOT RPT NOT NECESSARY.

2. REASONS ARE THAT WE ALREADY HAVE SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT
LISTS SUPPLIED BY LEBANESE AUTHORITIES, ALONG WITH CREDIBLE
RATIONALE PROVIDED BY DATT AND AMBASSADOR. FACT THAT RE-
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BUILDING OF LEBANESE ARMY IS STARTING FROM VIRTUALLY GROUND
ZERO MAKES IT EASIER FOR US IN WASHINGTON TO DEVELOP
RATIONAL INITIAL LISTS OF EQUIPMENT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
LEAD TIMES, COSTS, ETC.

3. A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN THIS POSITION, HOWEVER, ARE
THE CRITICAL TIME DEADLINES FACING US. WE CANNOT AFFORD

TO WASTE A MINUTE. PROCEDURES GOVERNING REPROGRAMMING OF FUNDS, GETTING AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT WITH LEBANESE, ARE COMPLICATED AND TIME CONSUMING. TENTATIVE INITIAL DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPROPRIATE LISTS OF EQUIPMENT AND PRICES TOTALING ABOUT DOLS 25 MILLION FOR THIS PACKAGE HAS BEEN SET FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 19. SUB-GROUPS OF EQUIPMENT HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY SPECIFIC MILITARY JUSTIFICATIONS, AND PACKAGE AS WHOLE HAS TO BE JUSTIFIED IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER TERMS.

4. ONCE THESE PREPARATIONS IN WASHINGTON REACH CERTAIN STAGE, IT WILL BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE LEBANESE TO COME THROUGH WITH REVISED PROPOSALS ALTERING THEIR ORIGINAL LISTS SINCE SUCH PROPOSED REVISIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE RE-EXAMINED, JUSTIFIED, AND RESUBMITTED TO THE APPROVING AUTHORITIES.

5. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BRIGADIER KHOURY UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH WE ARE OPERATING. AT THE SAME TIME, HE CAN BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE THRUST OF HIS REQUESTS.

6. WE ARE OPERATING UNDER ASSUMPTION THAT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FMS ARRANGEMENTS WITH US WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PARLIAMENT'S RATIFICATION, WHICH
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HAS BEEN A PROBLEM IN PAST.

7. WE ARE TENTATIVELY PLANNING ON SEVEN-YEAR CREDIT ARRANGEMENT, WITH TWO-YEAR GRACE PERIOD BEFORE REPAYMENTS BEGIN, AND WITH FULL PAYMENT TAKING PLACE IN THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AFTER THE GRACE PERIOD.

8. RE CONSULTATIONS ON TRAINING, WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BEST FOR MAJ. HOSKINSON TO ARRIVE BEIRUT, CONSULT, AND THEN RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE TIME TO BRING TRAINING SPECIALIST, PERHAPS FROM EUCOM.

9. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING SEPTELS ON OTHER ISSUES LINKED TO THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM. DRAPER WILL SEND YOU LETTER ON CERTAIN PRACTICAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH PROGRAM WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH. CHRISTOPHER

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